

AA-168  
Lydia's Rest  
Harness Creek Park

c. 1800  
private

Lydia's Rest is a deserted one-and-a-half story, three bay brick dwelling facing the South River. The walls are laid in Flemish bond on the front and rear and it has a fully above grade lighted basement. The tract was patented to John Baldwin, a Quaker, in 1681.

## INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

**1 NAME**

HISTORIC

Lydia's Rest

AND/OR COMMON

**2 LOCATION**

STREET &amp; NUMBER

West side of Harness Creek Rd. Route 387, near entrance  
to Camp St. Vincent de Paul, on South River

CITY, TOWN

VICINITY OF Annapolis

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

STATE

COUNTY Anne Arundel

**3 CLASSIFICATION**

## CATEGORY

☐ DISTRICT  
☐ BUILDING(S)  
☐ STRUCTURE  
☐ SITE  
☐ OBJECT

## OWNERSHIP

☐ PUBLIC  
☐ PRIVATE  
☐ BOTH  
**PUBLIC ACQUISITION**  
☐ IN PROCESS  
☐ BEING CONSIDERED

## STATUS

☐ OCCUPIED  
☐ UNOCCUPIED  
☐ WORK IN PROGRESS  
**ACCESSIBLE**  
☐ YES: RESTRICTED  
☐ YES: UNRESTRICTED  
☐ NO

## PRESENT USE

☐ AGRICULTURE ☐ MUSEUM  
☐ COMMERCIAL ☐ PARK  
☐ EDUCATIONAL ☐ PRIVATE RESIDENCE  
☐ ENTERTAINMENT ☐ RELIGIOUS  
☐ GOVERNMENT ☐ SCIENTIFIC  
☐ INDUSTRIAL ☐ TRANSPORTATION  
☐ MILITARY ☐ OTHER:

**4 OWNER OF PROPERTY**

NAME

Floyd Sheckells

Telephone #:

STREET &amp; NUMBER

Rte. 3

CITY, TOWN

Annapolis

VICINITY OF

STATE, zip code  
Maryland**5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**COURTHOUSE, Anne Arundel  
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Liber #: WNW 42

Folio #: 179 map 56 p. 37

STREET &amp; NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

Annapolis

STATE

**6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE

DATE

☐ FEDERAL ☐ STATE ☐ COUNTY ☐ LOCALDEPOSITORY FOR  
SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

## 7 DESCRIPTION

AA-168

### CONDITION

☐ EXCELLENT  
☐ GOOD  
☐ FAIR

☒ DETERIORATED  
☐ RUINS  
☐ UNEXPOSED

### CHECK ONE

☒ UNALTERED  
☐ ALTERED

### CHECK ONE

☒ ORIGINAL SITE  
☐ MOVED DATE \_\_\_\_\_

### DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Lydia's Rest is located on a hill above the South River, facing south. Land access is from the west side of Harness Creek Rd. near the entrance to Camp St. Vincent de Paul.

A one-and-a-half story Georgian house on an above-grade, lighted basement, it was probably built around 1800 since it was not found on the 1798 Tax Assessment. Although the grounds around it are maintained, the house is unoccupied and open to the elements; shortly it will be a ruin. The house is rectangular with brick walls laid in Flemish bond on the north and south elevations and common bond on the flanks. A slightly rounded watertable is visible on the south front. The dwelling is three bays long and two bays wide.

An above grade porch with a shed roof extends across the north elevation. The west side is enclosed. The entrance porch on the river front, visible in a 1975 photograph, has recently been removed.

The main entrance is in the center bay, river elevation. The windows have a combination of 9/6 and 6/6 light sash with beaded frames.

The house has a steep gable roof with the ridge running east to west, inside end chimneys and three gabled dormers on each side.

The interior has been completely stripped.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

**8 SIGNIFICANCE**

PERIOD		AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW				
<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION		
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE		
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE		
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN		
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER		
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION		
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)		
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION				

SPECIFIC DATES

c 1800

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

## STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

A small Georgian brick dwelling facing the South River, Lydia's Rest is located on a tract of land that was patented in 1681 to John Baldwin, a Quaker (in his will he left the Friends 300 pounds and a young horse). The house, now, nearly a ruin, was probably built c. 1800, as it was not found on the 1798 Tax Assessment. The land and river front are laid in Flemish bond and the flanks in common bond.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

**9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES**

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

**10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA**

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY \_\_\_\_\_

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE

COUNTY

STATE

COUNTY

**11 FORM PREPARED BY**

NAME / TITLE

Marion Morton Carroll (Sept. 1978) and Amy Hiatt (Feb. 1975)

ORGANIZATION

Anne Arundel Ct. Dept. of Planning and Zoning

DATE

STREET &amp; NUMBER

Arundel Center

TELEPHONE

CITY OR TOWN

Annapolis

STATE

The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature, to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 Supplement.

The Survey and Inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

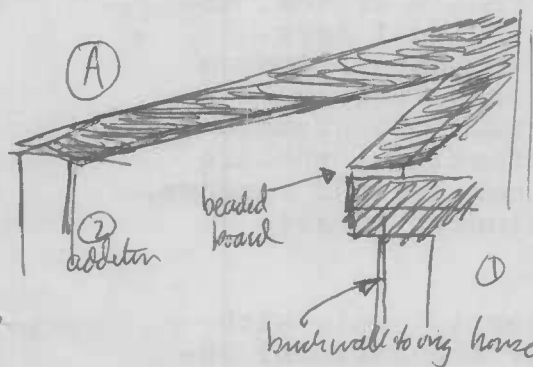
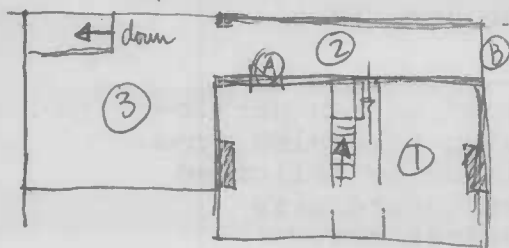
RETURN TO: Maryland Historical Trust  
The Shaw House, 21 State Circle  
Annapolis, Maryland 21401  
(301) 267-1438

Addendum to survey for data: Staff inspection 5/11/77 Mark R. Edwards

Visit by staff members to house 5/11 found original house had been completely stripped in. Inquire: This stripping of lath + plaster indicated a number of 18th century features still intact. These were: (1) studs + ~~diagonal~~ diagonal bracing for central hall area. What lath remained showed many small rose head nails in place; (2) structural support for stairway to 2nd floor showed adze marks - appears as if new risers + head, handrail, balusters + newel posts added c 1870; (3) joists holding 1st floor appear original + show adze wear (some have been replaced - charring on original members suggests a fire at one time); (4) exterior appearance + general masonry - 18th century; (5) brick size - stouter, flatter bricks indicate possible 18th c date, as do other details; (6) windows to ventilate basement show patches to receive diamond bars.

(2) original doorway height can still be seen - top horizontal member has been cut to make room for new, more modern doorway. Original beaded edge to architrave still remains.

House appears to have been built outwards from original central hall plan (1). A second addition



to rear (2) appears to use original 18th c materials, but was probably made at time of expansion (3), c 1870, according to visual and spoken info given by Mr. Scheckles. Rafters for section (2) tie into rafters that support gable roof for #1. Roof rafters all appear to have been replaced (c 1870?), as evidenced by circular saw marks, wire nails, and use of original materials (for example, a beaded board - original doorway door trim or chair rail? on which rafters from section (1) sit above joists that support 2nd floor of main house. Also in 1870 + later, the basement was finished

Mr. Scheckles also noted that a log kitchen originally

asked under entrance (B) to basement. Also noted were ~~base~~ remains of 2 slave cabins, and an oyster shell deposit where an old line taken used to operate.

Door in area A was cut through using original window from main house. And served as more usable space.

NATIONAL  
ENDOWMENT  
FOR  
THE ARTS

WASHINGTON  
D.C. 20506



A Federal agency advised by the  
National Council on the Arts

February 14, 1975

Mr. James M. Fitch  
Grad. Program in Restoration  
and His. Preservation of Arch.  
Avery Hall, Columbia University  
New York, New York 10027

Dear Mr. Smith:

Thank you for your interest in the National Endowment's Work Experience-Internship Program. We would welcome your recommendations of one or two promising arts administrators for the sixth program which will begin in the summer of 1975.

As you know, the Endowment actively supports arts organizations, including several state arts agencies, which have programs for training future arts administrators. To further enhance and complement this training, the Endowment inaugurated a Work Experience-Internship Program during the summer of 1973. The initial programs have been very successful, and a fifth session began in February, 1975.

For the sixth Work Experience Program, eight to ten participants will be invited to attend the session scheduled from June 2 to August 29. Candidates are again being solicited from arts administration graduate programs, state arts agencies and other professional arts organizations.

In the past, participants have been selected from a wide variety of backgrounds. They have been assigned to nearly all Endowment programs including the Chairman's Office, the Performing Arts and Public Media Programs, Visual Arts, Architecture + Environmental Arts, Expansion Arts, Program Information and the Federal-State Partnership Program. Former participants are now working with such organizations as state and municipal arts agencies, professional theatre and opera companies, universities, media centers and museums. Other interns have returned to graduate studies in arts administration.

The Program is designed to acquaint the participants with the policies, procedures and operations of the National Endowment for the Arts and to give them an overview of arts activities in this country.

Title Search

WNW 42 179 April 18, 1921

Grantors: Josephine G. Sheckells, Hazel and George Gurner

Grantees: Floyd and Elmer Sheckells  
118.07 acres remainder of 219 acres

WSG 26 228

May 9, 1842

Grantors: George and Catherine Wells

Grantee: Ezra Sheckells  
Holland's Purchase formerly Lydia's Rest

WSG 11 403

Nov. 30, 1825

Grantor: Henry L. Holland

Grantee: George Wells

WSG 5 176

July 29, 1817

Grantor: Louis Gassaway

Grantee: Henry Holland  
Chancery case tract of land containing 210 acres, called  
Lydia's Rest, sold because of mortgage due to Set Sweetser  
from Richard B. Watts.

Oct 26, 1814

Grantor: Seth Sweetser

Grantee: Richard Watts  
210 acres

NH 9 488

Feb. 14, 1799

Grantor: Absalom Ridgley, merchant

Grantee: Seth Sweetser, shoemaker  
975 pounds, 210 acres formerly Oatley's Rest

IB 2 201

Jan 28, 1714

Grantor: Anthony and Rebecca Ruly

Grantee: Henry Hill

note: 1783 Tax Assesment lists Rebecca Watkins as owner  
of 210 acres of Lydia's Rest.

WT 2 318-23

March 18, 1705

Grantor: Robt, Sollers, planter

Grantee: Anthony Ruly  
95 pounds, 210 acres



Title Search Cont.

WT 2 169

April 13, 1704

Grantor: Thomas Watkins, planter

Grantee: Robert Sollers, planter

A tract of land called formerly Oatley's Choice, now Lydia's Rest was patented to John Baldwin July 18, 1681. containing 210 acres. Baldwin in his Will of May 12, 1682 left 210 acres of Lydia's Rest to his grandson, Thomas Watkins. The name Lydia evidently referred to a member of Baldwin's family since a daughter named Lydia is mentioned in his will. (Will 4/43)

by Melissa B. McNatt

0201685204  
AA-28-V-a  
AA-28-V-b  
(168)  
(map 24)

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST WORKSHEET

NOMINATION FORM  
for the  
NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES, NATIONAL PARKS SERVICE

AA-168

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

<b>1. NAME</b>				
COMMON: Lydia's Rest				
AND/OR HISTORIC:				
<b>2. LOCATION</b>				
STREET AND NUMBER: West side of Harness Creek Road, Route 387 near entrance				
CITY OR TOWN: Saint				
to Camp <del>Street</del> Vincent dePaul, on South River near Annapolis				
STATE: Maryland		COUNTY: Anne Arundel		
<b>3. CLASSIFICATION</b>				
<b>CATEGORY</b> (Check One)		<b>OWNERSHIP</b>		<b>STATUS</b>
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Structure <input type="checkbox"/> Object		<input type="checkbox"/> Public <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both		<input type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress
		Public Acquisition: <input type="checkbox"/> In Process <input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered		<b>ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC</b> Yes: <input type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
<b>PRESENT USE</b> (Check One or More as Appropriate)				
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Agricultural <input type="checkbox"/> Government <input type="checkbox"/> Park <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation <input type="checkbox"/> Comments				
<input type="checkbox"/> Commercial <input type="checkbox"/> Industrial <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private Residence <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify)				
<input type="checkbox"/> Educational <input type="checkbox"/> Military <input type="checkbox"/> Religious				
<input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment <input type="checkbox"/> Museum <input type="checkbox"/> Scientific				
<b>4. OWNER OF PROPERTY</b>				
OWNER'S NAME: Floyd W. Sheckells				
STREET AND NUMBER: Rte. 3				
CITY OR TOWN: Annapolis		STATE: Maryland		
<b>5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION</b>				
COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC:				
STREET AND NUMBER:				
CITY OR TOWN: An		STATE:		
Map #56, ED #2, Parcel #37, Liber/Folio #WNW 42/179				
Title Reference of Current Deed (Book & Pg. #):				
<b>6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS</b>				
TITLE OF SURVEY:				
DATE OF SURVEY: <input type="checkbox"/> Federal <input type="checkbox"/> State <input type="checkbox"/> County <input type="checkbox"/> Local				
DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:				
STREET AND NUMBER:				
CITY OR TOWN:		STATE:		

7. DESCRIPTION			
CONDITION	(Check One)		
	<input type="checkbox"/> Excellent <input type="checkbox"/> Good <input type="checkbox"/> Fair <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated <input type="checkbox"/> Ruins <input type="checkbox"/> Unexposed		
	<div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between;"> <div style="width: 45%;">                     (Check One)  <input type="checkbox"/> Altered    <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unaltered                 </div> <div style="width: 45%;">                     (Check One)  <input type="checkbox"/> Moved    <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Original Site                 </div> </div>		
DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (If known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE			
<p>According to some reports, a tombstone, lying to the south-west of this small brick house, near the shore of the South River, marks the grave of a woman and bears the inscription, "This is Lydia's Rest". According to the owner of the property, who has farmed the land and lived in the house much of his life, no such stone exists. He is familiar with the name, however, and says that Lydia was a "high flying" English woman who had a little bit too much to do with pirates on the Chesapeake Bay.</p> <p>The land with the house on it has been owned by the Sheckells family since the 1840's when it was acquired through a trade with a man named Wells for a farm in Eastport. The 1878 county map shown that Ezra R.W. Sheckell was a farmer and collector who owned a total of 359 1/2 acres along the South River between Harness Creek and Aberdeen Creek.</p> <p>The house, now unoccupied and falling into disrepair, stands forlornly at the top of a rise overlooking a wide field and the South River beyond. It is surrounded by a group of cedars and several larger trees. The house was built in the mid-18th century of local brick laid in Flemish bond. There is a center entrance on both the land and water sides flanked by small 9/6 pane windows. The 1 1/2 story structure has end chimneys and three dormers on each side of the steep A-roof. There is a full raised basement. The exterior wall has a high, plain water table laid in a different bond.</p> <p>The house was renovated in the 1920's. The roof and dormers were covered with asbestos shingle. The porches on the front and around the east and north sides were added. The kitchen on the west end was added also. It replaced a small log kitchen according to the owner.</p> <p>Note: The number AA-28-V-b marks the approximate location of the legendary tombstone.</p>			

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

**B. SIGNIFICANCE****PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)**

- |  |                                       |  |                                       |
|--|---------------------------------------|--|---------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Pre-Columbian | <input type="checkbox"/> 16th Century | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 18th Century | <input type="checkbox"/> 20th Century |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 15th Century  | <input type="checkbox"/> 17th Century | <input type="checkbox"/> 19th Century            |                                       |

**SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known)****AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)**

- |  |                                       |   |  |
|--|---------------------------------------|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal              | <input type="checkbox"/> Education    | <input type="checkbox"/> Political      | <input type="checkbox"/> Urban Planning  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric             | <input type="checkbox"/> Engineering  | <input type="checkbox"/> Religion/Phi-  | <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Historic                | <input type="checkbox"/> Industry     | <input type="checkbox"/> lasophy        | _____                                    |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Agriculture  | <input type="checkbox"/> Invention    | <input type="checkbox"/> Science        | _____                                    |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Landscape    | <input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture      | _____                                    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Art                     | <input type="checkbox"/> Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Social/Human-  | _____                                    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Commerce                | <input type="checkbox"/> Literature   | <input type="checkbox"/> itarian        | _____                                    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Communications          | <input type="checkbox"/> Military     | <input type="checkbox"/> Theater        | _____                                    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation            | <input type="checkbox"/> Music        | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation | _____                                    |

**STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE**

SEE INST. INSTRUCTIONS

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY				O R	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES				
CORNER	LATITUDE				LONGITUDE				
	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds		Degrees	Minutes	Seconds		
NW	°	'	"	°	'	"	°	'	"
NE	°	'	"	°	'	"	°	'	"
SE	°	'	"	°	'	"	°	'	"
SW	°	'	"	°	'	"	°	'	"

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF ~~NOMINATED~~ PROPERTY: 14 acres

Acreage Justification:

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE:	
ORGANIZATION	DATE
STREET AND NUMBER:	
CITY OR TOWN:	STATE

12. State Liaison Officer Review: (Office Use Only)

Significance of this property is:

National ☐ State ☐ Local ☐

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

SEE INSTRUCTIONS



A-28  
60

(map 24)

AA-28-V-a

"Lydia's Rest"

South Elevation





A-  
168

(map 24)

Ad-28-V-a

"Lydia's Rest"

N.W. corner



A.  
68

(map 24)

aa-28-v-a

"Lydia's Rest"

North Elevation



A-  
168

(map 24)

Ad - 28 - Y - a

"Lydia's Rest"

Kitchen Wing

South Elevation

• JUN

69



AA-168

Lydia's Rest AA Jun '69

✓ PHOTOGRAPH BY  
WILLIAM D. MORGAN

• JUN 69





AA-168

Hydia's Rest AA Jun '69

✓ PHOTOGRAPH BY  
WILLIAM D. MORGAN